

'Spirit' Gone and Scientist Going

By JOSEPH V. PHILLIPS

Virginian-Pilot Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH — A scientist studying reports of flying objects in a Florida Avenue home wrapped up his investigation Sunday by saying the house is not haunted. But he could not give a reason for unusual incidents that began there 10 days ago.

William G. Roll, project director of the Psychical Research Foundation, Durham, N.C., said the incidents stopped four days ago and that their cause must be sought in living persons. He will leave today for Durham after making recommendations to the family involved.

The parapsychologist Sunday held a parting news conference in Hotel Governor Dinwiddie before newsmen, microphones and television cameras.

He discussed happenings at the home of Charles Daughtry, 74, Mrs. Annie Daughtry, 78, and their great-grandson, Cleveland Harmon, 12.

3 INCIDENTS

He said three incidents occurred while he studied the case—a stone was thrown in the backyard, a china cabinet glass door shattered, and a china ornament on a mantelpiece fell to the floor of the house.

Roll said, "In no instance was

I able to make a definite conclusion regarding the cause of the event."

"In field investigations in general, and in this case in particular, it is difficult to reach any conclusive judgment about the phenomena studied. The only thing that can be said with any assurance is that there is nothing in the house itself to cause the phenomena. The things only happened when the house was occupied."

"In other words the cause must be sought in living persons. However, it is not safe to go beyond this statement. That is to say, it is not possible to state whether the events were produced in normal ways or by a parapsychological process."

The parapsychologist

stated.

He noted that such unusual

incidents often are short-lived,

but there can be no assurance

the incidents will not re-

sume.

Roll said the investigation was

hampered by widespread public

interest in the case which upset

the "psychological conditions in

the home." He said it was there-

fore difficult to conduct a satis-

factory scientific investigation.

He said, "Before I go, I shall,

of course offer the family

certain recommendation that

will help them. However, my

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CROWDS HINDERED

The parapsychologist said he

could not exhaust all the re-

search potentials of the case be-

cause of crowd interference.

The family was more concerned

with disturbances from outside

the home than from within, he

said.

Police said the house was

wrecked by human intruders

Saturday night. Roll said, "I

should like to make a plea to

the public and to public autho-

rities to inform parapsychologists

directly whenever such out-

breaks occur. Only in this way

will science be able to reach

an understanding of these puzz-

ling phenomena, and only in

this way will it be able effec-

tively to aid the unfortunate

families involved."

He praised Portsmouth police

for their work in keeping many

intruders away from the house

while the investigation was un-

derway, and thanked newsmen

for leaving him alone.

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2 Police Frogmen Search Swamp for Death Weapons

PRINCESS ANNE—Two rubber-suited Norfolk police frogmen probed a muddy Princess Anne County swamp Sunday for weapons used in the fatal shooting of a 25-year-old insulation pipe coverer and the stabbing of his 19-year-old girl friend late Friday night.

The swamp is just beyond a clump of woods and near a beanfield where the assailant sexually abused Sandra Lea Jernigan of Bayside, then stabbed her in the throat.

Miss Jernigan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lea H. Jernigan of 1602 Terrace Ave., Bayside, was in fairly good condition late Sunday in Norfolk General Hospital.

Dead is James H. Futrell of 3543 Westminster Ave., Norfolk.

NEGRO IN DARK CLOTHES

The assailant was described by Miss Jernigan, a telephone operator, as a Negro man in dark clothes. Police were unable to question her further Sunday because of her condition.

Miss Jernigan and Futrell were standing by his car at the end of a dead-end road off Barretts Corner Drive, located about a half-mile east of Military Highway off Indian River Road, when the assailant accosted them. He asked on what they were doing on private property. Then he pulled a large caliber gun and shot Futrell once in the stomach and again in the head after he fell.

He then took Miss Jernigan farther down the sandy land and into the beanfield where he assaulted and stabbed her. She stumbled the half-mile to Indian River Road where a passing motorist found her.

On the off chance the assailant

threw away the weapons after the attack, the police combed the area for clues.

WATER-FILLED SAND PITS

The search was concentrated Sunday in the swampy waters and water-filled sand pits ringing the area.

Scores of curiosity seekers,

many with small children, con-

tinued to probe the scene Sunday, in-

quiring of police where the at-

tacks took place.

State Police Investigator George

L. Mavredes and State Trooper

John Gubesch have been working

on the case since early Saturday

morning.

Well, perhaps it is.

Festival chairman Clyde H.

Jacob Jr. and the festival execu-

tive committee decided over

the weekend to move the festi-

val coronation day back from

noon to Saturday afternoon.

The 10th International Azalea

Festival will start next April 15.

And it will end with the corona-

tion of its queen in the NATO

Amphitheater of the Botanical

Garden on the afternoon of Sat-

urday, April 21.

ALWAYS FAIR WEATHER

Until last Spring, Saturday was the traditional day for the festi-

val coronation, just as "fair"

was the traditional coronation

weather. Veteran festival hands

could point out: "It's never rained

during a coronation yet."

In the 1962 festival coronation,

held for the first time on a Sun-

day, Azalea Queen Peggy Gold-

water and her court got soaked

in a thunder storm that dropped

more rain on the gardens than

falls in her home state of Ari-

zona in a year.

So the committee has changed

back to Saturday and hopes, at

the same time, to change its

weather luck back to good.

Festival chairman Jacob, whose

appointment was announced by

Chamber of Commerce president

Harry Mansbach, has worked

closely with the festival and its

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Jacob is an expert on public

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